

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

Please **AMEND** claim 12 as follows.

A copy of all pending claims (including status identifiers) is provided below.

1. (previously presented) A floor panel which is bounded in a horizontal plane by a top side having a decorative layer, and an underside provided for bearing on an underlying surface, the floor panel being provided with means for releasably connecting at least two panels, wherein the connecting means are formed on at least one first side edge such that locking takes place in a transverse direction (Q) and vertical direction (V), and further comprising form-fitting elements for locking in the vertical direction (V) with a further panel formed on a second side edge running at an angle to the first side edge, wherein the form-fitting elements are spaced apart from one another in the transverse direction (Q) and in the vertical direction (V) on two spaced-apart, essentially vertically oriented walls, and further comprising a tongue formed on the first side edge and extending in the longitudinal direction of the first side edge, and a recess corresponding to the tongue formed on an opposite side edge, wherein an underside of the tongue, starting from a tip of the tongue, has a continuously curved contour and wherein a radius of curvature of the contour of the underside of the tongue is constant over at least 90 degrees;

the floor panel further comprising a first step-like milled relief formed on the second side edge and starting from the underside, wherein the first step-like milled relief includes an inner wall on which one said form-fitting element extending in the transverse direction (Q) is arranged and an outer wall on which an other said form-fitting element extending in the transverse direction (Q) is arranged, and further comprising a second step-like milled relief formed on a side edge that is located opposite the second side edge, wherein the second step-like milled relief starts from the top side and has an other inner wall and an other outer wall, on which are formed undercuts which correspond with the one and the other form-fitting elements, wherein the first step-like milled relief forms a shoulder which projects in a direction of the underside and has an essentially horizontally oriented head surface, and further comprising a channel formed in the head surface along a longitudinal extent in relation to the second side edge.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The floor panel according to Claim 1, wherein the recess is designed as a groove with a top lip and a bottom lip, in which the tongue can be latched in the transverse direction (Q).

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A floor panel, comprising:  
a top side;  
an underside for bearing on an underlying surface;  
a first side edge having a tongue;  
an opposite side edge having a recess corresponding to the tongue; and  
a second side edge extending in a transverse direction to the first side edge and having form-fitting elements for locking in a vertical direction with a further panel, wherein the form-fitting elements are spaced apart from one another in the vertical direction and the transverse direction,

the second side edge includes a first step-like milled relief starting from the underside and having an essentially vertical inner wall and an essentially vertical outer wall, wherein one said form-fitting element is formed on the inner wall and an other said form-fitting element is formed on the outer wall, and

the first step-like milled relief includes an essentially horizontal head surface with a channel formed therein.

6. (previously presented) The floor panel of claim 5, wherein an underside of the tongue has a radius of curvature that is constant over at least 90 degrees.

7. (previously presented) The floor panel of claim 5, wherein the recess is formed as a groove with a top lip and a bottom lip, in which the tongue of another floor panel can be latched in the transverse direction.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The floor panel of claim 5, further comprising a side edge opposite the second side edge having a second step-like milled relief and having spaced apart undercuts which correspond to the form-fitting elements.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) ~~The floor panel of claim 1,~~ A floor panel which is bounded in a horizontal plane by a top side having a decorative layer, and an underside provided for bearing on an underlying surface, the floor panel being provided with means for releasably connecting at least two panels, wherein the connecting means are formed on at least one first side edge such that locking takes place in a transverse direction (Q) and vertical direction (V), and further comprising form-fitting elements for locking in the vertical direction (V) with a further panel formed on a second side edge running at an angle to the first side edge, wherein the form-fitting elements are spaced apart from one another in the transverse direction (Q) and in the vertical direction (V) on two spaced-apart, essentially vertically oriented walls, and further comprising a tongue formed on the first side edge and extending in the longitudinal direction of the first side edge, and a recess corresponding to the tongue formed on an opposite side edge, wherein an underside of the tongue, starting from a tip of the tongue, has a continuously curved contour and wherein a radius of curvature of the contour of the underside of the tongue is constant over at least 90 degrees,

wherein walls forming at least a portion of the tongue and groove, respectively, are sized and shaped to form a dust pocket.

13. (previously presented) The floor panel of claim 5, wherein walls forming at least a portion of the tongue and recess, respectively, are sized and shaped to form a dust pocket.